

truly will reflect God's will; to pray that we can all be purged of the temptation to pretend that our willfulness is somehow equal to God's will; to remember that all the great peacemakers in the world in the end have to let go and walk away, like Christ, not from apparent but from genuine grievances. If Nelson Mandela can walk away from 28 years of oppression in a little prison cell, we can walk away from whatever is bothering us. If Leah Rabin and her family can continue their struggle for peace after the Prime Minister's assassination, then we can continue to believe in our better selves.

I remember on September the 19th, 1993, when the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority gather in Washington to sign the peace accord, the great question arose about whether, in front of a billion people on international television, for the very first time, Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin would shake hands.

Now this may seem like a little thing to you. But Yitzhak Rabin and I were sitting in my office talking, and he said: "You know, Mr. President, I have been fighting this man for 30 years. I have buried a lot of people. This is difficult." And I started to make an argument, and before I could say anything, he said, "But you do not make peace with your friends." And so the handshake occurred that was seen around the world.

A little while afterward, after some time passed, they came back to Washington. And they were going to sign these agreements about what the details were of handing over Gaza and parts of the West Bank. On this second signing, the two of them had to sign three copies of these huge maps, books of maps. There were 27 maps. There were literally thousands of markings on these maps, on each page: "What would happen at every little cross road? Who would be in charge? Who would do this, who would do that, who would do the other thing?" Right before the ceremony there was a hitch, and some jurisdictional issue was not resolved. Everybody was going around in a tizzy. I opened the door to the little back room, where the Vice President and I have lunch once a week. I said to these two people, who shook hands for the first time not so long ago: "Why don't you guys go in this room and work this out? This is not a big deal." Thirty minutes later, they came out. No one else was in there. They worked it out; they signed the copies three times, 27 pieces each, each page they were signing. And it was over.

You do not make peace with your friends, but friendship can come, with time and trust and humility, when we do not pretend that our willfulness is an expression of God's will.

I do not know how to put this into words. A friend of mine last week sent me a little story out of Mother Teresa's life. She was asked, "When you pray, what do you say to God?" And she said, "I don't say anything; I listen." And then she was asked, "Well, when you listen, what does God say to you?" And she said, "He doesn't say anything either; he listens." (Soft laughter.)

In another way, Saint Paul said the same thing. "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words."

So I ask you to reflect on all we have seen and heard and felt today. I ask you to pray for peace, for the peacemakers, and for peace within each of our hearts—in silence.

(Moment of silence.) Amen.

(Applause.)

Representative LARGENT. Thank you, Mr. President, for your remarks. You have asked us to pray for the leaders of the world and for leadership in the world. And at this time, I would like to ask my friend, Representative Harold Ford, to come forward to pray for world leaders.

Representative FORD. Thank you, Steve.

We pray, God, that you will help us to understand what the book of Ephesians means when it says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers." We pray that we may heed the ancient summons, pray as if everything depended on God and act as if everything depended on you. Whether we worship in the shadow of the cross, under the Star of David or the crescent of Islam, it is in this spirit that we gather and in this spirit that we pray. We pray that God be above us to protect, beneath us to uphold, before us to guide and around us to comfort. We offer these prayers in the name of one God of all humanity. Let all of God's children say amen. (Applause.)

Representative LARGENT. Thank you, Harold. One of the real mysteries of the power of Jesus is that, Mr. President, as you said, I may not have voted with you in the four years that I have been in Congress, but I want you to know that I care for you and love you. That is part of the mystery of Jesus and the celebration that we have here this morning as we come to pray for our leaders and for our world.

At this time I would like to ask Senator Lieberman to come forward and lead us in our benediction. (Applause.)

Senator LIEBERMAN. Thank you. Let us pray.

I pray, Lord, that you will open my lips, that I may declare your praise. We love you, Lord, because we come before you with a perfect faith that you will hear our prayer. And we have that faith not because of our confidence in our righteousness but because of our trust in your mercy.

Lord, thank you for waking us up this morning, restoring our souls to our bodies, bringing us to this place, enabling us to have this extraordinary experience. We have come along many paths to this place, but the destination we seek is a unified one, Lord, and it is you. You are the source of our lives, of our principles, of our purpose. We thank you for all that you have done for us. And as the President said so beautifully and compellingly and truthfully, for reasons that only impress us without imperfection, so often our attempts to reach you have divided us.

But today, the spirit in this room is yours; in the Hebrew, Shekinah, the spirit of God, is here and it brings us together in a characteristically American way, in a way that the founders of this country understood, and they expressed in the very first paragraph by which they declared their independence that they held certain truths to be self-evident and that the first of these was that the rights they were granting us came from you; they were not the work of philosophers or lawyers or politicians, but were the endowment we received from you, our creator.

Lord, we thank you for the leaders who are here, the speakers who are here who have shared their faith with us. We ask your prayers, especially on the leaders of our country, the President and Vice President and their devoted and gifted wives. We pray particularly today for the President of the United States. We thank you for the gifts you have given him of intellect, of judgment, of compassion, of communication, that have enabled him to be such a successful leader of our country and have raised up so many people in this country to a better life and have brought him to a point where people around the world depend on him, put their hopes in him.

And Lord, may I say a special prayer at this time of difficulty for our President, that you hear his prayers, that you help him in the work he is doing with his family and his clergy, that you accept his atonement in the spirit in which David spoke to the prophet and said, "I am distressed. Let me put my

faith not in human hands but in the hands of God, who is full of abundant mercy."

So, Lord, we pray that you will not only restore his soul and lead him in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake, but help us join with him to heal the breach, begin the reconciliation and restore our national soul so that we may go forward together to make this great country even greater and better.

And I pray, Lord, too, for all the leaders from around the world who are here. And in the spirit the president himself invoked, I want to reach out particularly to Chairman Arafat and Abu Mazin and Leah Rabin and her children, and to do so in the spirit of unity that fills this room, but also in the recollection and remembrance of the truth, that Abraham, with whom you entered the covenant that gave birth to at least three of the great religions that are here today, that Abraham loved his son Ishmael as he did his son Isaac. And we pray that you will bring that truth to Chairman Arafat and the leaders of Israel and you will guide them in the paths of peace so that their children and grandchildren may truly one day not just live in peace but sit together, as Dr. King evoked in all of us, at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood.

So, Lord, as we leave this place, we pray that you will take us by the hand and lead us home, but let us not leave here the spirit of unity and purpose that has filled this room. Let us resolve, each of us in our own way, to work to honor your name, to bring us closer each day to the realization of the prophet's vision, "when the valleys will be exalted and the hills and mountains made low, when the rough spots will be made straight and the glory of the Lord will fill the earth, and all flesh will see it and experience it." On that day, Lord, your name will truly be one and your children will be one.

Amen. (Applause.)

Representative LARGENT. Thank you, Senator Lieberman.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the 47th National Prayer Breakfast.

Thank you all for being with us here this morning. Let's leave today and live out the principles Jesus taught about loving one another, loving our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Thank you, and have a good morning.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARTINS FERRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues with great pride and satisfaction:

Whereas, The Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce is this year celebrating their 100th Anniversary as they have been committed to servicing their community since its inception in 1901; and,

Whereas, with a deep and abiding concern for the well being of all members of the community, have given generously of their time, talents and energy to make Martins Ferry a better place to live; and,

I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in celebration and commemoration of Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce's one hundred years of dedication to the people and businesses of their community.